

DO WE NEED COMMUNICATIONS? In consideration of the phenomenal development of modern communication means and the decisive influence of communications on military operations, it would seem that the title of this item is rather facetious. Nevertheless, from our contacts with the Commanders and Communications Officers of CAP units throughout the country, we are inclined to feel that many CAP Staff Officers do not fully appreciate the importance of this phase of their command. A commander who must be convinced or sold on the idea that it is an advantage for him to be able to maintain contact between various elements of his organization during either an emergency or routine operation is neither progressive nor on the alert. In utilizing personnel and equipment to fullest capacity, knowledge of the existence and employment of the several means of communications is vitally important to any airman. In the light of modern developments, a properly organized and operated communications system is the nerve center of any command as well as being the eyes, ears, and voice. There is irrefutable evidence that entire military campaigns have failed because of inadequate communications. Private flyers wisely acquaint themselves with whatever facilities that may be at their disposal because of the greatly increased scope and safety of their flights. In the last Communications Bulletin were set forth the communication policies endorsed by National Headquarters. It is felt that all those aims can be fully accomplished if each Wing will develop a dynamic WERS program. Moreover, coverage would be provided in the event of any emergency or to implement any other operation. The efficient communication personnel developed from manning an adequate WERS system would be fully competent for the task of imparting necessary communication training to CAP Cadets.

PREPAREDNESS. While discussing the need for communications, Captain Lewis Schmidt, Michigan Wing, aired these thoughts in a recent bulletin. We quote: "SURE, YOU CERTAINLY SHOULD BE PREPARED. BUT ARE YOU? Have you two-way radio apparatus for Air-Ground communications? -- Are you acquainted with the Air-ground panel communications with which we supplied you more than a year ago? Do you have a complete set of panels for your unit, both black and white? Have you posted cards in your Headquarters office giving the telephone numbers and location of the nearest BLOCK BANK, POLICE DEPARTMENT, FIRE DEPARTMENT, AMBULANCE COMPANY or UNDERTAKER, HOSPITAL, COUNTY SHERIFF, STATE POLICE POST, and RADIO STATION -- Do you as Communications Officer have all these locations and telephone numbers posted where they may be quickly found without pawing through a telephone directory? IF YOU HAVE'NT YOU ARE NOT DOING YOUR JOB AS COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER! BETTER GET ON THE JOB. DON'T GET CAUGHT WITH YOUR FLAPS DOWN."

DIRECTORY OF WING COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS. Captain Schmidt also suggests that a national directory of Wing Communications Officers be compiled as a matter of general interest. He recommends that the directory contain the commercial or amateur radio call of each Communications Officer. The National Communications Officer will be glad to commit himself to such an undertaking if sufficient interest is evinced. All Wing Communications Officers are invited to offer their suggestions on this point.

CADET TRAINING. As announced in the last Communications Bulletin, our prime communication responsibility and aim is the preparation of young men for the communication problems which will confront them in the Service. On meetings we have attended about the country, we find the cadets to be an enthusiastic group. We



should like to reiterate the importance of applying proper teaching methods. In teaching CW to cadets, certain Communications Officers are indulging in practices which will be detrimental in a later stage of the training. Some Officers have claimed that they were not able to accomodate generally accepted methods due to a lack of code practice equipment. Arrangements are being made to procure adequate code practice equipment. The project is nearing a successful close and the availability of that training aid will be announced at the proper time.

COMPLIANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS. Numerous instances have recently come to the attention of this Headquarters which indicate that many Communications Officers are not following the channels prescribed by National Headquarters for requisitioning training aids and other communication equipment. It is essential that all units follow the instructions issued by this Headquarters without deviation. Don't forget that if you take independent action which results in an unfavorable decision from AAF or federal agencies, you may be jeopardizing a program which affects all other units. The instructions issued by National Headquarters relative to the receipting, requisitioning, and the inventory of supplies have been promulgated for specific reasons and it is incumbent upon every Wing Commander and Communications Officer to cooperate promptly and precisely in all such matters.

WE HAVE A GUEST. Braving a spring blizzard which raged here in New York, Capt. Fred W. Christian, Communications Officer of the California Wing, flew in from sunny California to talk over his communication problems. Capt. Christian, you will remember, is the gentleman who rendered a splendid service to CAP by being instrumental in providing our fine Radiotelephone Procedure Manual. We spent several hours in discussing the California Wing's problems and also the national aspect of communications. It is always a great pleasure for us to meet our colleagues from the Wings. It is hoped that before many months have passed we shall have had the pleasure of meeting all Wing Communications Officers. If any other Wing Communications Officer is able to spare the time and expense of making a trip to National Headquarters, we feel that the information and understanding that could be gained would be of great mutual benefit. Incidentally, we were able to show Capt. Christian some New York sunshine before he left.

By direction of National Commander JOHNSON:

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